consultant for study. APIIC is in the process of finalising the Consultants.

Railway Safety Review Committee Report

2881. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of the Justice H.R. Khanna Railway Safety Review Committee report;

(b) the details of allocations made to maintain railway safety in the current year; and

(c) whether it was announced in the Budget that Rs. 17,000 crores is expected for undertaking safety-related works; if so, how Government would pool resources in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Railway Safety Review Committee-98 (Khanna Committee) has made 150 recommendations in Part-I and 128 recommendations in Part-II of their Report on various aspects of railway safety which include renewal of assets, human resource development and procurement of safety materials etc. In one of the recommendations, Railway Safety Review Committee has recommended that Central Government should provide a one time grant of Rs. 15,000 crores to Railways to wipe out arrears in renewals of track, bridges, rolling stock and signalling gear within a fixed time frame.

(b) The allocations for safety are made under planheads Track Renewals, Bridge Works, Signalling, Machinery and Plant,

Rolling Stock, Road Safety Works—Level Crossing and Road Safety Works—Road Over/Under Bridges and others, which during 2002-03, are as under:—

(Figures in Crores of rupees)

	Budget Estimate, 2002-03
Road Safety Works—Level Crossings	125.00
Road Safety Works—Road Over/Under Bridges	325.00
Track Renewals	3516.50
Bridge Works	209.30
Signalling and Telecommunication Works	727.05
Workshops including Production Units*	111.87
Rolling Stock*	280.00
Other Electrical Works*	0.50
Machinery and Plant*	9.00
Other specified Works*	0.50
TOTAL:	5304.72

*Allotments are of only safety element.

The work-wise details are given in the Budget documents - Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme, Parts II and III for 2002-03, presented to the Parliament alongwith the Railway Budget on 26.2.2002.

(c) Yes, Sir. A Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 crores has been set up for clearing the backlog of replacement of over-aged assets and financing some safety enhancement works over the next 6 years. A non-lapsable dividend-free grant of Rs. 12,000 crores is being provided, as Budgetary Support by the Government, over a six year period and the balance of Rs. 5,000 crores is being raised by the Railways through a safety surcharge levied on passenger fares with effect from 1st October, 2001.